

"Rare Plates & Early Dates".

Roy Gault.

Prompted by the appearance of a QV 1d Red plate 225 perfined with the curved "GF&S" on eBay recently, the following may be of interest.

With the notable exception of plate 77, the rarest of the Queen Victoria 1d Red plates is plate 225, first put-to-press on 27th October 1879. The simple reason for the scarcity is that the issue was replaced barely two months later by the 1d 'Venetian Red', introduced on 1st January 1880. To date, twenty examples of plate 225 have been reported with perfins as tabled below (*not strictly classed as a perfin).

1	A4205.02	A&N/C.S.L	11	K1120.02	K&K
2	B1450.01	B&C/M	12	M3320.01	M/J&C ^o
3	B7720.06	B/W&C ^o	13	O0495.01	O&C ^o ..
4	C5680.04	COX	14	P1040.01M	P.C./L.
5	D 1790.02	D&F	15	P2700.01	P.J/N.T.
6	G1830.01	GF&S (Curved)	16	R4820.01	R&S/L
7	G4350.02	GR/W	17	T2090.02	T&H
8	H0840.01	H.B/&S	18	T2565.01	T.J
9	H2820.01	H.G	19	W3920.01	WM&T
10	J3590.01	JHC ^o /L	20	---	Single Hole*

Even more difficult to come by (with Perfins!) are early plate numbers, especially lower than the plate 100. Many of these early plates were first put to press in 1864, a good 4 years before the introduction of Perfins. The following table lists *the number of dies known* against each 'early' plate. Note the zeros against plates 82, 83 and 85!

71	1	76	6	81	2	86	3	91	2	96	4
72	1	77	X	82	0	87	1	92	10	97	11
73	1	78	5	83	0	88	1	93	5	98	1
74	3	79	8	84	1	89	2	94	2	99	10
75	X	80	1	85	0	90	3	95	1	100	23

Can anyone add any more dies or information to either list, or perhaps contribute early dates (pre 1870) from loose stamps or covers?